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**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

Is there a difference between acronyms and abbreviations? Most people think they’re similar and they’re definitely used in similar ways. But, there are differences:

**What is an abbreviation?**

An [***abbreviation***](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/abbreviation) is any shortened or contracted form of a word or phrase. Like; **Dr**. for **doctor** or **Jan**. for **January**

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| **acad.** | **Academy** |
| **assoc.** | **association** |
| **asst.** | **assistant** |
| **att.** | **attorney** |
| **b.** | **born** |
| **BA** | **Bachelor of Arts** |

**What is an acronym?**

Specifically, an [***acronym***](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/acronym) is a specific type of abbreviation **formed from the first letters of a multi-word term**, **name**, or **phrase**, with those letters pronounced together as one term. *OPEC*—or the O(rganization of) P(etroleum) E(xporting) C(ountries)—is an acronym because we pronounce it as one word, **oh**-pek.

Examples:

**ASEAN** (noun): the **A**ssociation of **S**outh**e**ast **A**sian **N**ations is a political and economic union of ten member states in Southeast Asia that promotes regional cooperation and integration – Due to ASEAN's policy of "non-interference in the internal affairs of member nations" it has failed to condemn human rights abuses by some of its members.

**AU** (noun): the **A**frican **U**nion is a union of 55 African countries that arranges meetings among leaders to achieve greater unity, promote good governance and raise living standards – The AU was formed to replace the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 2002.

**AUKUS** (noun): a security agreement between **A**ustralia, the **U**nited **K**ingdom, and the **U**nited **S**tates in which they pledge to help defend each other's national interests – AUKUS has overshadowed the security pact between Australia, New Zealand and the USA known as ANZUS.

**BBC** (noun): the **B**ritish **B**roadcasting **C**orporation is the UK's national broadcaster of news and entertainment on TV, radio and online– Is the BBC ever biased when reporting on military conflicts involving the UK?

**BRICS** (noun): **B**razil, **R**ussia, **I**ndia, **C**hina and **S**outh Africa is a group of rapidly-developing nations that meet regularly to discuss economic development and trade – Our economics professor says BRICS will overtake the G7 in terms of net wealth by 2050.

**CIA** (noun): the **C**entral **I**ntelligence **A**gency is a US government agency that uses information it collects by spying to further US national interests and US corporations – The CIA has undermined many democratically-elected governments by organizing coups and uprisings that led to the establishment of brutal military dictatorships, especially in South America.

**CNN** (noun): **C**able **N**ews **N**etwork is a mainstream multinational news channel and website founded in the US in 1980 – CNN's commentary is quite progressive when it comes to social issues, but its international coverage hardly ever challenges Western foreign policy.

**EU** (noun): the **E**uropean **U**nion is a political and economic union that most European countries now belong to – The UK withdrew from the EU in 2020 after nearly fifty years of membership.

**G7** (noun): The G7 or **G**roup of **7** is an intergovernmental forum of seven Western countries - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the USA - plus "non-enumerated member" the EU – G7 countries account for just 10% of the world's population, but they own over half the world's net wealth.

**G20** (noun): The G20 or **G**roup of **20** is an intergovernmental forum of 19 countries and the European Union (EU) that aims to discuss and manage global issues – Protesters opposing the G20 say it undermines existing international forums like the UN in which all countries have a voice.

**GDP** (noun): **G**ross **D**omestic **P**roduct is a measure of the market value of all the goods and services a country has produced and sold in a given period of time – China's GDP is expected to become the world's highest by 2035.